

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • January/February 2011

Two New Scholarships, Sennott to Headline Luncheon

EVENT PREVIEW: FEBRUARY 18

by Jane Reilly

Charles M. Sennott, executive editor, vice president and co-founder of GlobalPost, will be the keynote speaker at the annual OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on Friday, February 18, 2011, at the Yale Club. At the event, the Foundation will award its largest ever scholarship total — \$28,000 in scholarships — to 14 graduate and undergraduate college students aspiring to become foreign correspondents. The scholarship recipients who emerged from an incredibly competitive field of 170 applications from more than 55 colleges are from Columbia University, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, Florida Gulf Coast University, New York University, Northwestern University, the University of California-Berkeley, University of Chicago, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Western Kentucky University and Yale University.

The OPC Foundation is launching two new scholarships this year in memory of two of the OPC's most distinguished members. The first, the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship, was established last year with seed money from CBS News. The second, the Jerry Flint Scholarship for International Business Reporting, was founded by his widow, OPC member Kate

McLeod, at the time of his sudden death in July. The scholarships will be presented at the luncheon by family members.

The Foundation scholarship program has grown dramatically in the last two decades and is now considered the most prominent scholarship program in the country for aspiring correspondents. The awards are given in the names of eminent journalists and media organizations. Besides addressing a distinguished audience of more than 200 luncheon guests, the scholarship winners also tour the Associated Press and meet with veteran international journalists in a pre-luncheon breakfast, hosted by Bill Holstein, OPC Foundation president. On the night before the luncheon, Reuters will host its traditional



Charles Sennott observes a local Afghan commander and U.S. Army major in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, 2006.

Gary Knight/Courtesy VII agency

reception for current and past winners at its Time Square headquarters. For many, says Holstein, the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists in action is as valuable as any monetary awards.

Media organizations have continued to cut back their international operations and, to the extent they do cover global stories, their coverage tends to be spasmodic.

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Couple Relays Tale of Love and Courage

EVENT RECAP: JANUARY 11

By Jeff John Roberts

Kristen Mulvihill and David Rohde knew of the risks involved in Rohde's work as a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*. Before getting married, they had even discussed the worst, including what to do if Rohde was killed overseas.

The couple had not, however, contemplated what to do if kidnappers grabbed Rohde and told his wife she must pay \$25 million and secure the release of Guantanamo prisoners to save his life. But that is exactly what happened when the



OPC President David Andelman, authors David Rohde and Kristen Mulvihill.

Sonya K. Fry

journalist left his new bride in New York and went to Afghanistan to finish reporting his book, which included an interview

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Correspondents parachute in, and then depart almost as suddenly. "We're trying to identify the next generation of correspondents who have the right values," Holstein noted. "We think the people covering the world ought to speak languages and ought to make commitments to live in-country, not just get on a plane from New York or London." That winners hail from the most diverse selection of colleges ever is proof, he says, of the Foundation's efforts to find the students most dedicated to carrying on the traditions of the founders of the Overseas Press Club.

It is precisely to help these students begin careers that the Foundation began and has now expanded its internship program. Begun in 2006 with one AP intern, the program in 2010 funded five interns — who are chosen from among the scholarship winners — to AP bureaus in Dakar and Cairo, and Reuters' bureaus in Buenos Aires, Mexico City, and Paris. The Foundation picks up the cost of the airfare and one month's living expenses for the winners. Interns usually use their own funds to extend their stays to two and three months.

Holstein is especially pleased that Sennott will be addressing this year's winners. "An experienced bureau chief, an award-winning foreign correspondent and an energetic innovator in multimedia," he says, "Sennott is attempting to invent the future of international news coverage. His business model is entirely different from

that of larger organizations and therefore might be more viable."

Through nearly 25 years as a reporter and on-air analyst, Sennott has been on the front lines of wars and insurgencies in 15 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, Algeria, Colombia, Northern Ireland and elsewhere. As executive editor of GlobalPost, he oversaw the design and development of the site and traveled the world to build a team of some 70 correspondents in 50 countries. GlobalPost has also developed strong editorial partnerships with CBS News, the PBS NewsHour and NPR Digital. It also has syndication agreements in place with some 50 newspapers worldwide. Sennott holds a master's degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and an honorary PhD from Providence College.

Holstein is grateful to the dedicated panel of judges who joined him on a brutally cold December morning to choose the 2011 recipients: Jackie Albert-Simon, *Politique Internationale*; Allan Dodds Frank; Jonathan Gage, *strategy+business* (Booz & Co.); Sharon Gamsin; Sally Jacobsen, AP; Jeremy Main;

Rosalind Massow; Kate McLeod; Sheridan Prasso, *Fortune*; Hannah Steiman, Clinton Global Initiative; Steve Swanson; Karen Toulon, Bloomberg; and Jack Reerick and Betty Wong, Reuters.

Luncheon tickets are \$75 for OPC members and \$100 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its three levels of giving: Benefactors, \$8,000; Patrons, \$5,000; and Friends, \$2,000. Tables seat 10. The reception is at 11:30 a.m.; the luncheon ends promptly at 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For further information, contact Jane Reilly by telephone at 201-493-9087 or e-mail her at foundation@opcofamerica.org.

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OPC Holiday Party Photos

photos by Sonya K. Fry



From left: Audrey Topping, David Andelman, Andrea Berg, Pamela Title and Han Tjan



Gergana Koleva with her friend Harry Bruinius of *The Christian Science Monitor*



From left: Jeremy Main, Bill Holstein, Bob Sullivan and Santiago Lyon



From left: Christmas Party Worker/Elves Jane Reilly, Sonya Fry and Boots Duque

The Club's annual party was held at the Rockefeller Center Club Quarters on January 4. Guests had a view of the skating rink and tree and had a full open bar served with Tuscan antipasti, turkey carving station, dessert and coffee.



From left: Sandra Upson, associate editor of *IEEE Spectrum* magazine with Hannah Clark Steiman of the Clinton Global Initiative and her husband Jonathan



From left: Evelyn Leopold, Bob Sullivan with friend Mary Scarvalone, Lilian King and Allan Dodds Frank

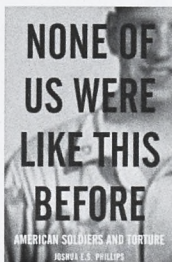


Jeremy Main (center) was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Jane Reilly, Executive Director of the OPC Foundation and OPC President David Andelman accepts Main's winnings as a donation to the OPC Foundation.

Journalist Says Media Ask the Wrong Question on Torture

by Chris Lombardi

It was journalist Joshua E. S. Phillips's fascination with human rights abuses in El Salvador in 1980 that led to his latest book, *None of Us Were Like This Before: American Soldiers and Torture* [Verso, 2010], in which he argues that we've all got torture wrong and yet the worst arguments are winning. The book's focus is on Battalion 1-68, a tanking unit with the U.S. Army's Fourth Infantry Division whose members found themselves involved in detaining and sometimes abusing Iraqis in their custody. Following is an excerpt from an interview from *Guernica* Magazine, www.guernicamag.com.



Joshua Phillips: One thing this book has done is give me an even greater respect for the U.S. military. But while we have these admirable institutional concepts and beliefs against torture, you have very powerful leaders saying we did it and it worked!

Guernica: You describe these “cultural beliefs” — giving military personnel on the ground the latitude to do what they think they have to do.

Joshua Phillips: For units not doing torture, there has developed kind of a torture envy. In the Army you hear Special Forces are doing it and getting great results, you want to be just as effective.

Guernica: Talk about how you decided that the heart of the story was the damage done to the soldiers of Battalion 1-68.

Joshua Phillips: At the time, I really thought it was all about those famous memos. But I was also struck by the situation of whistleblowers like Private Joseph Darby, who blew the whistle on Abu Ghraib and was called out by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld by name. His house was vandalized! I wanted to know if there were guys in these units who'd been shut down, how that contributed to abuses being concealed.

Then Jonathan Millantz contacted me. He said that this kind of abuse had happened in his unit, and efforts to report it were squelched ... it was really after Millantz's death that I realized this was the story that should thread through the whole book.

... I ended up sympathizing with them — not with these guys' actions, but with them. I could relate to these kids: they were like the guys on my fire crew, from backwater towns. I thought of those guys tasked with a kind of warfare they never expected to fight, were never trained in, and making a lot of it up along the way. And it really undid them.

Guernica: And their families.

Joshua Phillips: In the case of Jonathan Millantz's mother, it was complicated because he was a combat medic. As I got to know Jonathan, it became clear to me that he was born to be a medic and should never have been in the military. He had had this incredible duality of being charged with taking care of people, but meanwhile doing things that caused them pain. His mom

saw what I was digging up was important. They needed someone to know what he had gone through, that her son had been implacably damaged by what he had been through in Iraq. But like the other families, I interfered with that image of their sons as good soldiers. It's both true and hard to say, that your boy served with honor and that he was involved in this.



Erin Swain

Guernica: Those interviews also gave your analysis of the big picture its most singular insight: that these abuses were about as far as can be imagined from a well-planned military operation.

Joshua Phillips: Contemporary journalism on the left has this standard torture story now, connecting the dots between the Bush Administration, those CIA memos from Jay Bybee and John Yoo, politics, the history of torture in the Vietnam War. For a long time I bought it. I thought it was the chain of memos, the indifference/complicity of the Administration. All of which was there, but it was far from the whole story.

What changed was when I heard actual soldiers in their own voices — about what caused them to become involved in torture. Sometimes it was to get intelligence. Sometimes for punishment. And yes, it was enabled by undoing Geneva protection for detainees. But sometimes it wasn't. Sometimes it was for very banal reasons. Like because they were bored.

Or when you ask how they learned how, it's usually not some Special Forces SERE training. They developed these techniques from what they went through in their own basic training, like sleep deprivation. Or those peroneal strikes: a number of these guys had been cops and corrections officers...

The famous case of that guy who was suffocated in the sleeping bag? Many said, “Oh it's a classic CIA technique,” and when he was on the stand the guy said he learned it from the military SERE training. But in the soldier's first deposition, he said he learned it from what his brother did to him.

Guernica: What kind of reception has the book gotten so far?

Joshua Phillips: It's not gotten a lot of attention in the States yet. ...The issue of torture is not somewhere most people want to linger. ...We may not want to confront this issue so much in the U.S. because of how we want to think about our veterans. There's the sense that we want to think of our veterans as — if they're damaged, damaged by something — glamorous, like a firefight.

Guernica: The picture you draw is also not simple.

Joshua Phillips: I just saw a conversation between Tom Wolfe and Pete Hamill. I loved hearing Hamill talk about immigrant populations. Hamill remembered being a cub reporter and talking to an editor about some tip he had, and the editor says, “If there is a story that you want to be true, it probably isn't.”



PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

Best wishes to all our readers for good health and great accomplishments in the coming Year of the Rabbit.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: Denise Law, who won last year's OPC Foundation's Standard & Poor's scholarship for economic and business reporting, has joined the *Financial Times* in Hong Kong as a reporter for the paper's FT Tilt, an online venture launched in January for professionals interested in emerging markets. She is also the *FT's* Greater China correspondent. Law explained "tilt:" "The name 'tilt' was chosen to indicate how economic powers have 'tilted' from the west to the south and east, namely, the Bric countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China), but also to South America, South-East and Central Asia, and the Middle East."

MURDERS: Around the world, 44 journalists were killed last year, murdered or slain while on assignments, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported. A higher press corps murder toll was reported by the International News Safety Institute, 85. Either way, last year's death toll was lower than in 2009 when more than 100 journalists were killed including 32 reporters and media workers massacred in the Philippines. Last year's death toll was highest in Pakistan with at least eight killed followed by Iraq with four killings and Honduras and Mexico with three killings each.

The latest killings in Pakistan: **Ilyas Nizzar**, a reporter for the Baluch-language magazine *Darwanth*, was found dead on a dirt road January 5 in Pakistan's volatile Baluchistan province after he went missing December 28. **Mehmood Chandio**, president of the Mirpurkhas Press Club and bureau chief of the Sindi-language TV channel Awaz,

was fatally shot by assailants December 5 when he answered a knock on his door. The next day **Abdul Wahab** of the Urdu-language Express News TV channel and **Pervez Khan** of WAQT TV were among 50 people killed when two suicide bombers blew themselves up at a gathering of tribesmen in northwest Pakistan. The body of Pakistani journalist **Abdul Hameed Hayatan**, 25, a reporter for several print dailies, was found November 18 near the Sami River in Pakistan's Balochistan province. He and a friend were kidnapped in October while on the way home from a wedding. Abdul Hameed was head of the Baloch National Movement, which is pushing for an independent Balochistan. His friends and family believe Pakistan security agents are responsible for his disappearance.

Carlos Antonio de Castro, 65, a celebrity TV journalist and columnist in Portugal, was found nude and dead in a pool of blood in his room at the InterContinental Hotel at Times Square, New York City January 7. His head was beaten and his scrotum cut off. Police arrested Portuguese model Renato Seabra, 20, who recently won a modeling contract on a Portuguese television show. The two men arrived in New York City from Portugal in late December to see some Broadway shows and spend New Year's Eve in Times Square. They checked into the hotel together. Seabra, who was charged with second degree murder, told police he beat Castro for more than an hour while the older man lay on the floor and then plunged a wine corkscrew in one of the victim's eye and used the tool to cut off Castro's testicles. Seabra said he told Castro he was no longer gay and that he killed Castro "to get rid of the homosexual demons, to get rid of the virus." Castro was admired in Portugal for coming out as



Carlos Antonio de Castro and Renato Seabra

a gay man. *The New York Times* quoted **Luis Pires**, an editor of *Luso-Americano*, a Portuguese-American newspaper in Newark, New Jersey, "Everybody in Portugal is talking about it — the major networks, newspapers. It was very difficult to understand how Carlos was murdered the way he was."

When he left his home in La Masica, Honduras December 28, broadcaster **Henry Suazo** was shot to death by two gunmen who fled on bicycles. Suazo was a correspondent for Radio HRN of Tegucigalpa and a news presenter for Cablevisión del Atlántico. Eight other Honduran journalists have been murdered since March 2010, at least three in direct reprisal for their work.

Sun Hongjie, a reporter for the *Northern Xinjiang Morning Post* of Urumqi, died December 28 after he was attacked and beaten into a coma late at night December 17 in Kuchin in northwest China. Sun was having a drink with a friend who called for five men, aged 18 to 19, to attack the journalist for having previously insulted him. They dragged Sun to a construction site and hit him on the head. In the hospital he was pronounced brain dead. The six men were arrested. Sun was known for exposing corruption and wrong-doing in the western province of Xinjiang, and news reports suggested he was attacked for criticizing the government. But the official version of the attack said the police called it an ordinary criminal case and refuted previous speculation that the victim was attacked because his reports had angered some people.

In Indonesia, the body of **Alfreds Mirulewan**, chief editor of the *Pelangi Weekly*, was found on a beach in Kisar in

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the eastern Maluku Islands December 17, three days after he went missing. Bruises covered much of his body. Mirulewan had been looking into allegations of unlawful fuel sales, and he also covered recent local elections in the remote islands. **Bob Dietz**, Asia program coordinator in the Committee to Protect Journalists, said, "Given the circumstances of his death, there is reason to suspect Alfrete Mirulewan could have been killed for his work. Indonesia is earning a bad reputation as a place where journalists can be killed with impunity."

ANCHORAGE: **Brian Palmer's** documentary "Full Disclosure: A Reporter's Journey Toward Truth" won honorable mention at the Anchorage International Film Festival late last year. The documentary is based on his three trips to Iraq with U.S. Marines. In a newsletter, Palmer, an OPC member, wrote, "Audiences — for my film and others — were tremendously engaged and intellectually curious. (I quickly and quietly shed my Palin-inspired preconceived notions about Alaskans the first night.)" Palmer is a former CNN correspondent, a *Fortune* staff writer and Beijing bureau chief for *U.S. News & World Report*.

ARLINGTON, Virginia: **Kim Willenson** underwent surgery at Virginia Hospital Center January 6 to remove part of a malignant tumor from his brain. Because of its location, not all of the tumor was removed. On January 13, his wife **Ayako Doi** sent this message: "Kim was discharged from the Virginia Hospital Center on Tuesday [January 11], and is up and about at home without major physical difficulties, other than weakness of left leg and hand, somewhat slurred speech and headache." Kim is a former UPI correspondent and editor in Tokyo, Saigon and Washington, a *Newsweek* correspondent and author of the 1987 book *The Bad War: An Oral History of the Vietnam War*. Ayako and Kim were editor and publisher respectively of the *Daily Japan Digest* from 1990 to 2004.

BANGKOK: Thailand investigators now believe that Thai troops may have been responsible for the shooting death of Reuters cameraman **Hiro Muramoto**, 43, last April during fighting between

OPC Website Grows, Sets the Pace for Web Developers

by Aimee Vitrak

The website for the OPC, www.opcofamerica.org, has taken on new dimensions in the past two months with an online award application, vigorous online debate on WikiLeaks, reached our thousandth Tweet and been featured in several case studies for setting the standard in Drupal development.

For the first time ever, journalists can now apply and pay for our annual awards online. This feature is in "beta" mode, with the expectation of improving the system tailored to the Club's needs in the years to come. Additionally, the Board moved to add six new online awards: General excellence, best coverage of breaking news, best use of multimedia, best investigation of an international issue or event, best use of video and best commentary, all of which can be applied for online. OPC award applicants can also use our first-ever typeable PDF form.

The other milestone the Club realized in the past month is its first online debate about WikiLeaks. The OPC Freedom of the Press Committee has issued no official statement on WikiLeaks itself, or its owner/founder **Julian Assange**, citing that the website and owner himself do not meet the criteria for infringement of press freedom. However, the Committee will address issues of press freedom as related to the case, such as the letter it wrote December 21, 2010, to Senator Joseph Lieberman who chairs the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, about the ombudsman at *Stars & Stripes* who claims that the newspaper's staff does not have access to sites that carry WikiLeaks and that his own work may be subject to editing.

The article "Where Do You Stand on WikiLeaks?" has to date 26 comments posted by members. The Frontline Club (which has come out in strong support of Assange) and OPC President **David A. Andelman** who writes, in part: "Certainly, I would hope none of us espouses the concept of some governmental authority deciding what should appear on the front page of *The Times* tomorrow (as was the case with Soviet media in the communist era)." **Larry Martz** writes in part: "WikiLeaks is not about press freedom; it's about mischievous anarchy, in the name of exposing everybody's secrets except its own. That isn't a goal the OPC should be endorsing."

To join the debate and read posts, you must log in to the website. Your username is your first and last name, for example: John Doe. To access your password, click the link below the log-in box, "Reset Password" and enter the e-mail address that you receive from OPC e-mail correspondence. If you do not receive e-mails from the Club or experience log-in issues, e-mail aimee@opcofamerica.org.

We also reached our thousandth Tweet on November 29, 2010, announcing OPC Scholarship Winner Gregory Johnsen's op-ed about an American linked to Al Qaeda in *The New York Times*. At press time, the Club has 1,029 Tweets. You can follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/opcofamerica.

Our website was also featured on www.htmlgoodies.com in several case studies to help other Drupal developers set up search features like our OPC Awards Archive and Press Freedom Letters Archive, resolve taxonomy-related issues like images and establish a website community. Drupal is an open-source software that manages website updates. The Club adopted the software in December 2009.



Julian Assange

army, police and Red Shirt anti-government demonstrators. On December 10, Reuters quoted from a leaked report on Muramoto's death. The report said that the Japanese cameraman's death "was caused by a high-velocity bullet as gunfire flashed from the direction of soldiers" and "the Thai military played a larger role in the killing of civilians during political unrest in Bangkok this [last] year than officials have acknowledged." **David Schlesinger**, Reuters editor-in-chief and an OPC mem-

ber, called for the immediate public release of the full report.

BOSTON: Veteran foreign correspondent **George Esper** underwent surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in December to amputate a toe, apparently diseased by complications from diabetes. During 42 years with AP, Esper reported from the



George Esper

Vietnam War, the first Gulf War and U.S. peace missions in Somalia and Bosnia.

DHAKA: **Clare Hollingsworth**, 99, who covered the world from Poland in World War II to the Vietnam War, and **Horst Faas**, 77, who won Pulitzer Prizes for his photos of the Vietnam War and the conflict in Bangladesh, are among 388 foreign journalists, politicians, military leaders, poets, philosophers, human rights activists, singers and filmmakers honored by Bangladesh for their contributions to that nation's war of independence. Each honoree will receive a 50-gram gold crest and honorary Bangladesh citizenship.

DETROIT: **Helen Thomas**' alma mater, Wayne State University, terminated its Helen Thomas Spirit of Diversity in Media Award December 3 after Thomas told a Dearborn, Michigan workshop on anti-Arab bias that Jewish influence made it impossible to criticize Israel in the United States. AP quoted Thomas telling the workshop, "Congress, the White House and Hollywood, Wall Street are owned by the Zionists. They put their money where their mouth is." In an e-mail statement, Wayne State said it "strongly condemns the anti-Semitic remarks made by Helen Thomas." In response to the decision, Thomas told the *Detroit Free Press* that the university "made a mockery of the First Amendment" by ending the award.

Thomas, an OPC member and long-time White House correspondent, graduated from Wayne State in 1942 with a bachelor's degree in English. Thomas, 90, resigned as a Hearst newspapers columnist last June after she was criticized for saying that Jews should "get the hell out of Palestine" and go home to "Poland, Germany and America and everywhere else." She later apologized for those remarks. But she remains in print. Starting January 6, her column is published in the weekly *Falls Church News-Press* in Virginia. The paper with a circulation of nearly 30,000 is given out free near Metro stops in Washington, D.C.

HONG KONG: **Anna Healy Fenton**, correspondent for Lloyd's List, has become president of the Foreign

Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong. **Tom Mitchell** of the *Financial Times* was elected president of the Club in May 2010 but resigned in September when he was transferred to the U.K. Fenton succeeded Mitchell as president. In the November-December issue of *The Correspondent*, the Club's magazine, Fenton wrote, "Outgoing president Tom Mitchell leaves the Club in great shape. The finances are strong, we've just seen another successful ball — the ninth — and the promotion to boost correspondent and journalist membership has produced an impressive pile of applications. Tom's hard work also sees club relations with China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at an all-time high, crucial for members whose work requires frequent mainland trips."

The 9th annual charity ball of the Foreign Correspondents Club last October raised more than HK\$7 million (about U.S. \$899,409) to educate poor children in Hong Kong.

KATHMANDU: Online reporter **Shreedeep Rayamajhi**, who reported on politics and crime in Nepal, was attacked by several men November 16 while he was riding his motorcycle home from work. He suffered a fractured shoulder and sprained ankle. He had received several threatening e-mails warning him to stop writing.

LITTLE SAIGON, California: A reunion of Vietnam War correspondents May 14 to 15 in Little Saigon is being arranged by **Carl Robinson**, **Ray Herndon**, **Richard Pyle**, and **Murray and Dodi Fromson**. Little Saigon runs through several towns in Orange County, about 45 miles south of Los Angeles. If you wish to attend, please contact Herndon at rayfherndon@sbcglobal.net

MINSK: About 20 local and foreign journalists were beaten and arrested by Belarusian authorities December 19 during an opposition rally that followed President Alexander Lukashenko's reelection victory. **James Hill**, a *New York Times* photographer based in Moscow and an OPC award winner, was hit

when he tried to show his press card. Police seized his equipment and deleted his photos and recordings. The assaulted journalists were forced to lie face down in the snow. They were from the Ukraine, Russia, Germany, France and the United States. More than 600 activists were arrested at the rally.

NEW YORK: **Peter Bohan**, a Reuters correspondent in Chicago, editor in Hong Kong, and bureau chief in Singapore and the U.S. Midwest, was appointed editor of Reuters America Service in January. He joined Reuters in 1983.

Dexter Filkins, *The New York Times* Middle East correspondent, has left the newspaper for a similar position at *The New Yorker*. His reporting for the magazine will not be limited to the Middle East. **David Remnick**, editor of *The New Yorker*, said, "I'm sure that he will get his fill of Afghanistan and Pakistan, but I'd also be very surprised if he didn't travel far and wide — whether that's the Middle East or Africa or India."

TEHRAN: Security agents raided *Shargh*, one of Iran's few remaining independent newspapers and arrested three journalists and a managing director, an opposition website reported December 8. The arrests came one day after the newspaper published a special supplement that referred favorably to mass protests that followed last year's disputed presidential election. Abbas Jafari-Dolatabadi, Teheran's top prosecutor, said the four were arrested for "security related offenses."

TOKYO: **Rikio Imajo**, an OPC member and a long-time UPI photographer and photo editor in Tokyo, appeared on a program marking the 35th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and broadcast by NHK, Japan's national network. In a Christmas



Helen Thomas



James Hill



Rikio Imajo in Vietnam, 1968.

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message, Imajo wrote, "Our government is getting weaker and we are not able to see any improvement on our economic situation in Japan."



Quoting the *Asahi Shimbun*, **Teiji (Ted) Shimizu** reports that correspondent membership in the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan dropped from about 500 journalists 18 years ago to 310 in October last year, and the Club's revenue was in the red last year for the third consecutive year. Shimizu, a former UPI and Kyodo News correspondent in Japan, also reported that the *Asahi* has stopped printing its four-page English daily that appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* amid a "dramatic fall" in the circulation of English-language newspapers in Japan. After World War II when he was 14 years old, Shimizu, a Japanese, was hired as a copyboy in the UP Tokyo bureau. He graduated from high school and university in Oklahoma, his expenses paid for by his first boss, the late **Ernie Hoberecht**, an OPC member and long-time UP executive in Tokyo.



Bernie Krisher, who raised money to build rural schools and a charity hospital in Cambodia after nearly 20 years as a *Newsweek* correspondent in Japan, reports that more than 500 schools have been built under his program. In a December letter to friends, Krisher, 79, who left Nazi Germany with his family when he was 6, wrote that he plans "to publish more books in Khmer to get Cambodian children to read again after Pol Pot nearly destroyed the culture." Krisher founded the *Cambodia Daily* in 1993.

Friends Without A Border has selected Krisher to receive its inaugural Healing Cambodia Award that will be presented at a benefit gala in New York City April 14. The award will be presented by OPC member **Nicholas Kristof**, a *New York Times* columnist. **Kenro Izu**, founder of Friends, visited Krisher for advice in establishing the Angkor Hospital for Children at Siem Reap. Since its opening in 1999, the hospital has treated more than 850,000 children free in one of Cambodia's poorest provinces. To attend

the gala, telephone **Mayanna Park** at her office (212) 691-0909 or mobile (917) 817-3224.

URUMQI, China: **Memetjan Abdulla**, an editor for the Uighur language service of the state China National Radio, was sentenced to life in prison on charges that he spread subversive information around the time of deadly riots in western Xinjiang Province in 2009, a Uighur exile group said in December. The charges involved Abdulla's translation of a call by the World Uighur Congress for Uighur exiles to protest 2009 ethnic violence against Uighur workers. Abdulla is in his early 30s.

QUITO, Ecuador: Sports reporter **Guido Manolo Campana** was abducted, beaten and threatened with death while on assignment to investigate allegations that a professional soccer player was using another person's identity, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported December 7. Two gunmen seized Campana from a bus that was taking him to the assignment, blindfolded and bound him, and drove him to a house where four men beat him and said they would kill him if his reporting on the case was made public. He was released. Campana is a reporter for the daily *El Universo* of Guayaquil. In a letter to Ecuador President Rafael Correa Delgado, **Arlene Getz** and **Kevin McDermott** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee wrote, "It disturbs us deeply that a professional journalist should have to live in fear of attack simply for doing his job."

VIENNA: **Christo Komarnitski**, a Bulgarian newspaper cartoonist, received the 2010 Human Rights Award from the South and East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO). Komarnitski, 46, is a political cartoonist for the daily *Sega* (Now) and the weekly *Sofia Echo* and *Starshel* (Hornet). **Milena Dimitrova**, a board member of the organization, commented, "Very often a human rights defender can say much more with a single picture or cartoon than with tons of words."



Gerfried Sperl, former editor-in-chief of *Der Standard* and now a columnist for the newspaper, became the chairperson of

the International Press Institute's newly formed Austrian National Committee in January.

CORRECTION: The son of the late **Pham Xuan An**, the North Vietnam spy who worked as a reporter for Reuters and *Time* in Saigon during the Vietnam War, is a Vietnam consul in San Francisco, but he is not the consul general as reported in the December *OPC Bulletin*. The son, **Pham Xuan Hoang An**, has been at the consulate on a three-year term since last April. **Dodi Fromson**, who corrected this column after telephoning the son, wrote in an e-mail to this columnist, "He was delighted to hear from me." Dodi is the wife of **Murray Fromson**, an OPC member and a former *Stars & Stripes* reporter and AP and CBS News correspondent who reported from both the Korean and Vietnam Wars and the Soviet Union. They live in Los Angeles.

WEDDING

Janine Zacharia, 37, Jerusalem bureau chief for *The Washington Post*, and **Jeremy Bailenson**, 38, associate professor of communications at Stanford University, were married by a rabbi January 2 at the Sephardic Temple in Cedarhurst, New York.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Jiri Dienstbier, 73, co-founder of the Velvet Revolution newspaper *Lidové Noviny* (People's News) in Czechoslovakia, died January 8. Before the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968, Dienstbier traveled to the Far East, France, United Kingdom and the United States as a foreign policy commentator for Czechoslovak Broadcasting. The Communists imprisoned him for three years. After the Communist government was ousted, Dienstbier became minister of foreign affairs. In 1990, the International Press Institute selected him as a World Press Freedom Hero.



Zhang Jianhong, founder of the website Aiqinghai (Aegean Sea) in China, died December 31 while on medical parole from a six-year prison sentence, charged with "incitement to subvert the state's authority." He was sentenced in 2007. Zhang, who suffered

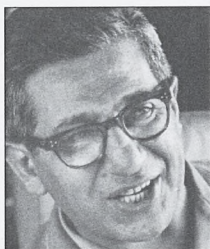
from a nervous disease and was paroled last year, had written commentary calling for political reform in China and had reported on allegations that the Chinese government illegally procured organs from living prisoners.



Barry Zorthian, 90, died December 30 in a Washington, D.C. hospital of a staph infection. Few correspondents could write his obituary better than **Richard Pyle**, an AP reporter in Saigon during the Vietnam War. Pyle wrote in part:

Barry Zorthian, a colorful U.S. diplomat who left his mark on American policy in Vietnam as a forthright and often combative press spokesman in the early years of the war, has died. By his own reckoning, Zorthian was the last surviving member of the original cadre of U.S. diplomats and military leaders whose policy decisions shaped events in America's longest war. Dispatched to Saigon in 1964 by then President Lyndon Johnson to defuse an increasingly acrimonious relationship between American officials and news correspondents covering the war, Zorthian used a mixture of charm, sly wit and uncommonly straight talk in trying to establish credibility for the U.S. effort. Many ex-Vietnam correspondents who dealt with him say Zorthian, more than any other government spokesman of recent memory, understood and valued the role of the press in a free society. Zorthian remained proud of his most controversial achievement - creating the daily Saigon press briefings that became known as the "Five O'Clock Follies," where officials delivered battlefield summaries and answered questions from reporters.

Zorthian was born of Armenian parents in Kutahya, Turkey, in 1920. The family immigrated to the U.S. and New Haven, Conn., where Barry attended Yale University, edited *The Yale Daily News* and was a member of Skull and Bones. Graduating in 1941, he served as a Marine Corps artillery officer in the Pacific war and retired to the USMC Reserves as a colonel. After a postwar stint at CBS radio, Zorthian spent 13 years with the

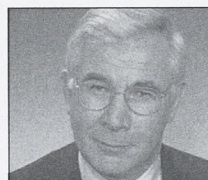


Barry Zorthian

Voice of America, reporting on the Korean war and rising to program director, then did tours as a Foreign Service officer in India and Vietnam. From 1968 on, Zorthian worked in the private sector, including 12 years as president of Time Life Broadcast and Cable and then as its vice president for Government Affairs in Washington.



Brian Hanrahan, 61, a veteran BBC foreign correspondent, died in London of bowel cancer December 20. Hanrahan covered the 1982 British war over the Falklands, in Hong Kong Britain's 1984 handover of the Crown Colony to China, in Moscow the rise of Mikhail S. Gorbachev and the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. After his Moscow assignment, a heart condition led him to be based in Britain, where he became the BBC's diplomatic correspondent. In 1989, Hanrahan stood atop the Berlin Wall and delivered a 10-minute running commentary while thousands of East Germans streamed through the wall.



Brian Hanrahan



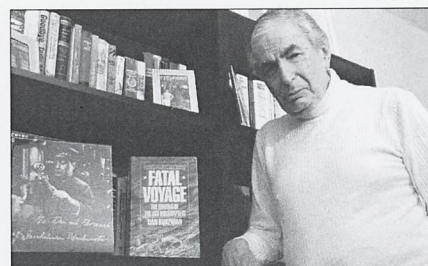
British journalist **Anthony Howard**, 76, a former Washington correspondent for *The Observer* and later editor of *The New Statesman*, died in London of an aneurysm December 19. After editing *The New Statesman* for six years, Howard left the weekly magazine in 1978 and then edited *The Listener* and was deputy editor of *The Observer* from 1981 to 1988. Early in his career, he wrote for *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*. Howard wrote biographies of British politicians R. A. Butler and Richard Crossman.



Anthony Howard



Dan Kurzman, 88, who reported from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, and who won



Dan Kurzman

two OPC awards for his books, died December 12 at Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York City of pneumonia following cancer treatment. Kurzman, an OPC member, dedicated each of his 17 books to **Florence**, his wife of 32 years and the editor of his books. She died in 2009. Kurzman's books dealt with little-known incidents in World War II and Israel. In Rome, he presented Pope Benedict XVI with a signed copy of his book *A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII*. Kurzman did research for that book in the Vatican archives. Subjects of his other books included Allied efforts in World War II to destroy a plant in Nazi-occupied Norway that could create heavy water and enable the Nazis to build a nuclear bomb, sinking of the USS Indianapolis by a Japanese submarine a few days after the cruiser delivered parts to Tinian island for the Hiroshima atom bomb, the first Arab-Israeli War, and biographies of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, and Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi. In addition, Kurzman's books won OPC Cornelius Ryan Awards in 1963 and 1980. Before becoming a foreign correspondent for *The Washington Post*, Kurzman was Jerusalem correspondent for NBC News and Asian bureau chief for McGraw-Hill News Service.



U.S. Marine sergeant **Martin Russ** and his platoon ventured into no man's land between North and South Korean forces in the summer of 1953, the last days of the Korean War. The Marines were pinned down by enemy gunfire and mortar shells. Russ later wrote, "During the barrage I tried to draw my entire body within my helmet, like a fetus." From his Korean War experiences, he wrote *The Last Parallel: A Marine's War Journal*,

(Continued on Page 10)

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which rose in 1957 to No. 8 on *The New York Times* best seller list. Among his other books, Russ wrote *Line of Departure: Tarawa* about the World War II battle in which American forces faced serious Japanese opposition for the first time, and *Breakout: The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea* about the Chinese Army entry into the Korean War. Although he dropped out of St. Lawrence University in his junior year to join the Marines, Russ taught writing at what is now Carnegie Mellon University. Russ, 79, died December 6 in his Oakville, California home.

◆

Nicholas C. Chriss, 62, a former UPI correspondent who reported from Europe, Asia, the space program and the civil rights movement, died in a Houston medical center November 27 shortly after his wife found him unconscious from an apparent heart attack in their Houston home. Chriss covered the erection and destruction of the Berlin Wall, the Soviet space program, the revolution that toppled Czechoslovakia's communist government, turmoil in Bulgaria, overthrow of Rumania's dictatorship, collapse of the communist regime in East Berlin, and his travels in China and Australia. Chriss was the first president of the Atlanta Press Club and president of the Press Club of Houston, 1977 to 1978. His wife, Jutta Hausen, is a mathematics professor at the University of Houston.

◆

Sherwood (Woody) Dickerman, 84, who reported the Vietnam War for the *Herald Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Reporter* magazine and *Newsday* and then from the Middle East for *Newsday*, died November 1. Dickerman, a World War II veteran in the Philippines, started his overseas career with Reuters in London and then worked in New York for the *Daily News*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek* and the *Herald Tribune*. After working abroad, he lived in Key West, Florida and Squirrel Island, Maine.

◆

Colonel **Peter C. Sweers Jr.**, 87, edi-

OPC Remembers Statesman Richard C. Holbrooke

by Al Kaff

Richard C. Holbrooke was the speaker at the OPC's award dinner on April 22, 1999 during which he surprised **Andre Marton**, the father of Richard's wife, **Kati Marton**, an author and journalist. The elder Marton was an AP correspondent in Budapest in the 1950s, and he was arrested and jailed, accused of being a CIA agent. His wife, Kati's mother, was a UPI correspondent and also arrested. During the 1956 anti-communist uprising in Hungary, Andre was virtually the only link to the outside world, and his dispatches won him the 1957 OPC President's Award. Marton was the guest of Holbrooke at the 1999 dinner, and — 42 years late — Holbrooke and OPC President **Roy Rowan** presented Marton the certificate of his OPC award, its delivery delayed by the Hungarian upheaval. **Allan Dodds Frank**, OPC president 2008 to 2010, has been Holbrooke's upstairs neighbor in their New York City apartment building for the past 15 years. Allan invited him to the 1999 dinner. "He was a great supporter of the OPC," Frank said. Andre's wife died years ago, and for a year or so until his death he lived in New York City with his daughter and Holbrooke.

Holbrooke wanted to be a journalist before he became a diplomat. At Brown University, he majored in history and was editor of the student newspaper. After graduating in 1962, he applied for a job at *The New York Times*, but the newspaper turned him down. So he joined the U.S. State Department as a foreign service officer and became a diplomatic troubleshooter in Asia, Europe and the Middle East; negotiator ending the Bosnian war; and most recently President Obama's special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. One correspondent wrote on the Internet that Holbrooke was "a man who, unlike many officials, had respect for and appreciated the work of foreign correspondents." **Rud Poats** selected Holbrooke for his first diplomatic assignment, the Vietnam War. Poats, a UP correspondent in Japan and Korea during the late 1940s and 1950s and later a U.S. diplomat, wrote in an e-mail, "He was one of a half-dozen new foreign service officers that I picked and briefed for their first assignments with USAID — to Vietnam." Talk about powerhouse neighborhoods! Poats lives in the same Manhattan Central Park West apartment building that houses the Allan Frank and Holbrooke apartments.

Holbrooke, 69, died in a Washington, D.C. hospital December 13 following a 21-hour operation to repair a tear in his aorta.



Kati Marton and Richard C. Holbrooke

tor-in-chief of *Pacific Stars and Stripes* from 1967 to 1969, died last August 5 in Alexandria, Virginia. Sweers took over the U.S. Army military daily when the paper was recovering from bitter civilian staff/management strife, and Sweers helped pave the way to more harmonious relations between staff and management, according to his obituary in the *S&S Association News*. **Toshi Cooper**, the paper's former chief librarian, said, "He was one of the few people among the 14 officers in charge I worked for who seemed to have a realistic grasp of newspaper business fundamentals." A veteran of World War II in Europe, Sweers earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in communications. **John Baker**, *Stripes* managing editor under

Sweers, said, "Pete Sweers was a somewhat rare bird, a colonel who did not want to be a general."

◆

Other *Stars and Stripes* staffers who died last year: **Bradford Diufee**, 74, reporter in Darmstadt, Germany, from 1974 to 1977 and 1980 to 1983 when he was a Navy chief journalist, died August 11 in a Flagler Beach, Florida hospital after a long illness.

James Lloyd George, 92, who was sports editor of the European edition of *S&S* during World War II and later worked for newspapers in Iowa during a 60-year career in journalism and advertising, died last year.

Book Night: (Continued From Page 1)

with the Taliban.

The result was a seven month ordeal that is described in the couple's new book, *A Rope and a Prayer: A Kidnapping From Two Sides*.

Rohde and Mulvihill were at Club Quarters on January 11 to share their story of love and courage with members of the Overseas Press Club. Their talk was also a testament to the plight of kidnapped journalists and a candid assessment of America's dysfunctional relationship with Pakistan.

Rohde explained how his first minutes of captivity came as a rude jolt of shame in which he realized that his all-important interview opportunity was no more than an act of recklessness.

"There's an intensifying race to the bottom that leads to taking risks in exchange for adulation," he said, describing his own actions and what he regards as a dangerous trend in overseas journalism. Rohde had been kidnapped before while reporting in Bosnia.

For Mulvihill, her husband's kidnapping was at once traumatic and absurd. For instance, she learned of the capture while at *Cosmopolitan* magazine where she was editing a piece called "How my Bra Saved my Life." She also had to experience the indignity of tormentors who demanded millions of dollars, but called collect to do so.

There were moments of levity, too. Mulvihill recounted with a laugh the time she and a car full of FBI agents looked on powerlessly as a cop handed them a parking ticket as they conferred outside a Starbucks on the Upper West Side.

At the event, Mulvihill expressed gratitude not only to the federal agents but also to the New York journalism community who supported her during Rohde's captivity. Even though the kidnapping was widely known at *The New York Times* and other news rooms, no reporter chose to endanger Rohde further by publishing the fact.

News accounts would have only further stoked the deluded grandiosity of the Taliban who, the couple reported, proved remarkably sophisticated in their use of technology and media. Their tactics included trolling Google for Rohde's family members and driving him three hours

up a mountain to make a ransom video appear that it was produced in Afghanistan, not Pakistan where he was actually held.

The couple's ordeal ended happily after Rohde used a rope to escape his captors and make his way to a Pakistan military base.

Other kidnapped journalists are not so fortunate. Rohde described a captured Canadian reporter whose family has been resorting to charity cookouts in a desperate attempt to raise ransom money. He added that unlike European and Asian nations, the governments of English speaking countries do not pay kidnappers.

To help others who land in his situation, Rohde is working with the Committee to Protect Journalists to develop protocols for governments and news agencies to follow when a reporter is kidnapped.

In response to a question from former OPC President Allan Dodds Frank, Rohde also offered advice for young journalists reporting in danger areas.

"Don't interview the Taliban," he replied deadpan before adding that it has become essential to work only with large news agencies who have the best fixers. "We're only as good as the local journalists we work with."



Sonya K. Fry

Bill Holstein and Adam Ellick have David Rohde sign *A Rope and a Prayer*.

The event's discussion finally turned to the intractable problem of how Americans can work with a government in Pakistan that is blatantly in cahoots with the Taliban.

Rohde's view is that no amount of money and military aid to Pakistan will induce the country to dislodge the Taliban. Instead, he endorses a view expressed in a WikiLeaks cable that the answer lies in a strategic shift that addresses Pakistan's fear of encirclement. Rohde notes that India has erected six consulates in the Afghan region and that this is a source of anger and paranoia even among ordinary Pakistanis.

The couple's book offers insight on Pakistan and the kidnapping but it is also, they say, a symbolic end to Rohde's war reporting and the start of a new phase of life. It may have to be. He says his mother's first words on his return were, "I'm revoking your passport."

New Books: (Continued From Page 12)

On inside pages the subjects range from such noted war reporters as **Peter Arnett**, **Keyes Beech** and **Neil Sheehan**, to lesser known professionals, novices and newcomers, from 18 countries.

Horst Faas, the architect of the AP photo operation that earned four of the news agency's six Pulitzer prizes in Vietnam (including Faas's own), is one of several entitled to his own page in the book. Others include **Sydney Schanberg** of "Killing Fields" fame; the late, fondly-remembered **Hugh Van Es**, whose UPI shot of fleeing Vietnamese climbing a ladder to a U.S. helicopter bookended the war with **Malcolm Browne's** AP photo of a burning monk 12 years earlier; photographer **Philip Jones Griffiths**, and even "gonzo journalist" **Hunter S. Thompson**, posing with his Uncle Duke sunglasses and cigarette holder.

As Ulevich says in the book's spare text, "a bond of experience ties us, the living and the dead, as the Indochina war recedes from memory." The picture-taking being a random process, the author doesn't claim to have snapped every-one possible. Some subjects he simply missed; in making digital scans in the 1990s he found some photos had faded.

— by Richard Pyle

New Books

ASIA

NOBODY REALLY KNOWS HOW

many journalists actually covered the Vietnam War over the years from 1961 to the fall of Saigon in 1975, but it is likely that most of them visited the Saigon bureau of the Associated Press at some point. "AP Saigon" was not just a signoff on the wire, but — like its competitors at UPI and Reuters — a vital source of real-time information and support for other members of the Saigon press corps.

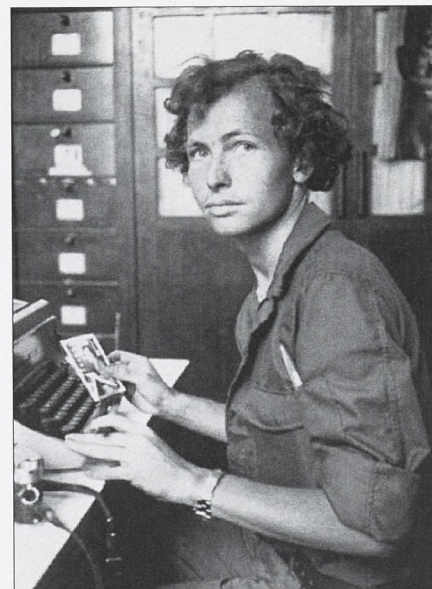
For some resident correspondents, the AP bureau on the fifth floor of the Eden Building overlooking Lam Son Square was a daily stop for coffee, conversation and a look at the world and Vietnam news clipboards. Visiting journalists called on AP for help in developing and transmitting pictures to home offices, and it was the first place that many newcomers came to for guidance and advice after dropping their gear at the Continental or Caravelle hotel.

Now comes *The Polaroid Portraits, Indochina 1972-1975* [www.blurb.com], a unique record of these pilgrimages, produced in book form by **Neal Ulevich**, a former AP

staff photographer who worked in Indochina and later in Thailand, China and Japan, and earned a Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography in Bangkok in 1976.

Between 1972 and April 1975, when he left Vietnam aboard an evacuation helicopter from the U.S. embassy roof, Ulevich kept a loaded Polaroid camera at hand at all times, and when a Saigon regular, a visitor or a newcomer entered the bureau, he asked them to pause long enough for a photo. Here, in the crisply exposed black and white images are the faces of more than 200 people, from the famous to the virtually forgotten, who worked at or visited AP Saigon during those last four years of the war. The faces are remarkably revealing of their subjects — mostly sober, some smiling, a few self-consciously mugging — and all enhanced by what Ulevich calls the "soft window light" of the bureau photo office where most of them were taken. (A few shots were made in Phnom Penh and Vientiane.) Predictably, some of Ulevich's impromptu subjects wondered whether he was making photos for their obituaries. One female freelancer said of her Polaroid image: "bloody awful. I'll have to live."

Indeed, for the book's cover, Ulevich chose a haunting image of **Michel Laurent**, a French photographer who first covered Vietnam for AP and returned in 1975 with the Gamma agency, only to be killed two days before Saigon fell. He was the last of



This photo is on the cover of *The Polaroid Portraits*. Ulevich writes about the project on his website: The subjects are fellow journalists, photographers, friends, newsmakers. In Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane I simply asked them to pause for a snapshot. It was my personal project, and no one took a Polaroid camera seriously. French Photojournalist Michel Laurent, above, was killed in combat the last day of the Indochina war.

75 journalists who perished or vanished during 10 years of the "American war" in Indochina. Among the more than two dozen people in the book who have since died, Laurent is one of two lost in the war. The other is Japanese photojournalist **Taizo Ichinose**, who disappeared in Cambodia in November 1973.

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

**OPC Foundation
Scholarship Luncheon**

Friday, February 18
Yale Grand Ballroom
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Save the date:
OPC Awards Dinner
April 28

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA